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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

Washington, D.C. 20001

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR.

April 23, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Robert M. Kinnitt,
Executive Secretary, National Security Council

Charles Hill,
Executive Secretary, Department of State

Colonel John H. Stanford
Executive Secretary, Department of Defense

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S JOURNEY TO CHINA

Attached is a draft of the Op-Ed piece on President Reagan's journey to China. Any comments you have on this piece should be phoned to me (632-8478) not later than noon, Tuesday, April 24, 1984.

William B. Staples
Executive Secretary

Attachment: As stated

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PRESIDENT REAGAN'S JOURNEY TO CHINA

"Peace is not a passive, but an active virtue" wrote Bishop Fulton Sheen. President Reagan's active search for peace has just taken him to China, a great and vital country certain to have even greater influence in the future.

The Chinese have, over the centuries, broken new ground in many fields -- including their study of strategy. They have a saying that "to stop using weapons and avoid war is truly military". Yet, the Chinese have not broken new ground in the arms control realm.

The time is propitious for an arms control dialogue with them. While President Reagan's agenda in Beijing was heavy with numerous topics, arms control was significantly featured.

This greater attention to arms control is as it should be. The President has built upon a slow but steady Chinese awakening to the possibilities and promise of arms control that come from within the Chinese themselves. During President Nixon's historic opening to China, President Ford's journey there, and President Carter's normalization of relations with China, arms control was of slim concern. Until recently, China did not participate at all in international arms control discussions, other than to deliver grand perorations on complete and universal disarmament.

Today China is more actively engaged, in part, reflecting its broader decision to end its diplomatic isolation and join the fray of international politics. It may also reflect greater appreciation that arms control can contribute to China's security and foreign policy objectives.

Regardless of the cause, in a few short years China has, for the first time, signed up to three major international treaties.

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One ensures that the vast continent of Antarctica will be used for peaceful, not military, purposes. The second prohibits, among other things, putting any weapons of mass destruction in outer space. The third is designed to establish a nuclear-free zone in Latin America.

China now also actively participates in the 40-nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva where Vice President Bush has just tabled the US draft treaty for a total global ban on chemical weapons. Earlier, in a relatively new departure there, the Chinese tabled detailed proposals of their own for a chemical weapons ban.

Perhaps the most significant Chinese steps on arms control have come in non-proliferation. The Chinese have signalled that they too share the well-grounded concern that the further spread of nuclear weapons represents one of the more ominous threats -- if not the most ominous threat -- facing mankind.

In particular, this year China joined the International Atomic Energy Agency, the world body that among other things inspects peaceful nuclear activities to ensure they are not used for military or nuclear explosive efforts. Second, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang stated during his January visit to the U.S. that China will not "encourage nuclear proliferation" or "help other countries develop nuclear weapons." This very important statement underlined the Chinese commitment. Third, China has made clear its policy requiring international safeguards on its nuclear exports.

As part of this non-proliferation thrust, the United States and China have reached agreement on a framework for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This is comparable to

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the agreements between the United States and other responsible nuclear suppliers. It will allow cooperation under adequate and agreed safeguards and controls, contributing positively to our non-proliferation and peaceful cooperation objectives.

China's arms control interests encompass broad and direct concerns. In particular, China keeps a wary eye on the Russian bear, whose military buildup in the Far East outpaces even the more publicized expansion in Europe. Like its neighbors in Asia, China has watched with growing concern as the Soviets have expanded their Pacific Fleet; strengthened their now 52 tank and motorized rifle divisions in the Far East; and deployed 135 of the new, triple-warheaded SS-20's in the Far East (with more under construction) even though there are no comparable weapons at all in Asia.

Nor is China oblivious to what is happening in neighboring Afghanistan. Not surprisingly, the Chinese have followed closely the US-Soviet nuclear arms control negotiations and the international controversy over the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia.

We welcome and encourage a more active role on arms control; but we should not expect any "flurry of accomplishments". China will move cautiously and will continue to avoid becoming entangled in "superpower" issues in a way that would seem to impair its independent standing in the world, especially its designation as the only third world member of the major world powers (symbolized by its permanent seat in the UN Security Council); But a revitalized Sino-US dialogue can contribute not just to improved bilateral relations but also the broader search for peace in the world at large.

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